

MIC3...NEWS, VIEWS AND TRANSITIONS

Newsletter for the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunities for Military Children



MIC3 Observes Month of the Military Child

Mark D. Needham, MIC3 Chairman, and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission recognize and observe April 2011 as the Month of the Military Child.

This special celebration is a legacy of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and was established to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. Military children are our nation's children. Care of military children sustains our fighting force and strengthens the health, security and safety of our nation's families and communities. It is important to emphasize and recognize the role that military children play while a parent or important adult is serving. The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission is committed to resolving the educational transitional issues that are faced by these children and their families.

Military families move between postings on a regular basis, and while reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they can be difficult for the children of military families. The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. The Compact therefore seeks to make transition easier for the children of military families so that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

As part of the Compact, the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunities for Military Children was established (also referred to as the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission or MIC3). Thirty-six states have adopted the Compact and placed it in statute. The Department of Defense continues to work with the Commission, Council of State Governments, national organizations, and state leaders to bring the remaining states on board. Member states are forming their State Councils and inform school districts of the terms of the Compact.

Please take time this month to recognize the service of our military servicemen and women, their families and their children.

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West Virginia Joins MIC3

With the signing of House Bill 2550 by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, West Virginia joins the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission in the adoption of Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for Military Children. West Virginia becomes the 36th state to enact the Compact since 2008. The Compact is to be signed into law March 23, 2011 at 9:30 AM in the Governor's Reception Room. Brigadier General (Ret.) Norman E. Arflack, Executive Director of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, was in attendance.

WELCOME WEST VIRGINIA!!!!





MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

Mark Needham, MIC3 Chair, Kentucky MIC3 Commissioner

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is only in its third year and we now have 36 states as members. We welcome West Virginia as our 36th member state and we hope to add more soon. This really shows you the support out there for our military and their families. This Compact has the simple mission of ensuring the children of our military service members are not disadvantaged in schools just because they frequently transition from school district to school district while following their Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, or Marine around the country on assignments. I think it's obvious that we must take care of these great military children.

I'd like to thank all our commissioners out there for the terrific job you are doing. No one has this as their only assigned duty I'm sure so you must take time out of your already busy schedule to resolve conflicts, attend conference calls, participate in committee meetings, and attend our annual conference. Thanks for what you do—it's important.

We've recently solidified our relationship with the Department of Defense (DoD) with a signed Memorandum of Understanding. Although they are prohibited from formally joining the Compact, they are doing all they can to be great partners including following all provisions of the Compact unless legally unable to do so. Thanks go to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) Robert L. Gordon and his team in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Make no mistake, care of our military families is a readiness issue.

Lastly, my sincere appreciation goes to our Executive Director, Brigadier General (ret) Norman Arflack, and his team who manages the day-to-day activities of the Compact and takes care of the commissioners. John Matthews and Richard Pryor do a wonderful job of keeping us all straight. Thanks to all of you.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BG(Ret.) Norman E. Arflack, Executive Director

Thank you for taking the time to review the inaugural edition of our MIC3 Newsletter. This is the first of what we hope to be many informative editions of this publication.

The Commission on Educational Opportunities for Military Children has been existence since early 2008. Our mission is to insure parity in educational opportunities for children of members of our active duty armed forces. Active duty families historically move from six to nine times during the span of their children's educational years. Military families move between postings on a regular basis. While reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they usually play havoc with the children of military families: losing and making new friends, adjusting to new cities and bases and changing schools. The armed services has taken great leaps to ease the transition of personnel, their spouses and most importantly children, however much remains to be done at the state and local levels to ensure that the children of military families are afforded that same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals by inflexible administrative and bureaucratic practices. With more than half of all military personnel supporting families, the impacts of reassignment and long deployments are a key consideration when making long-term life choices.

Our MIC3 mission is to assist military children in four key areas; enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation as they transition from one school system to another. The Governor's of our thirty-six member states have or will soon appoint a Commissioner and State Council who are critical to the resolution of any issues that may arise as a result of these transitions. The staff at the national office provides support and assistance to the Commissioners and Councils.

We are excited about the opportunity to minimize educational barriers to children of the members of our armed forces who have given so much in service to our great nation.

Please visit our website, www.mic3.net to learn more about our organization and what we are doing to facilitate this important cause.





MIC3 ACROSS THE NATION: (OHIO)

By Tom Rutan, Ohio MIC3 Commissioner

Ohio joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children in 2009. A State Council was formed which includes, not only those positions specified in Article VIII of the compact language, but additional representatives from other critical stakeholder groups. These groups include two Ohio Senators and two Ohio Representatives (more than a single legislative representative), and single representatives from each of the following Associations or organizations: the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators, the Ohio School Boards Association, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the Ohio School Counselors Association, the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio State University Extension Service/ Ohio 4-H, the Military Families liaison and the Ohio PTA.

Ohio has addressed multiple cases as the Compact was enacted. Cases have ranged from graduation requirements and/or testing to school entry and course placement. Ohio has also had to deal with questions of eligibility under the Interstate Compact. Included below are some scenarios that Ohio has encountered and how they were handled. Other member states may find similarities to what they have faced under the Compact.

First scenario: Kindergarten student was not enrolled in school in the sending district since the upcoming transfer was known by the military parent. Once the transfer took place, the family learned that the cut-off date for the Ohio school was different and the child was not old enough to enroll in kindergarten in Ohio. Had she been enrolled in the prior location, she could have transferred into the Ohio school under the Military Compact regardless of age. The child was too young to enroll in the Ohio school and must wait until the qualifying age is attained. Chapter 300 – Enrollment Sec. 3.102 (b) (2) Kindergarten age.

Second Scenario: Mother and step-father wanted to relocate to Florida for personal reasons and send their son to live with an aunt in Ohio. The child has significant special education needs, some of which the Ohio school currently does not provide. Mother is no longer a member of the military (several years separated). Step-father (active military) does not have custody. The move is personal and not military in nature. The Military Compact does not apply. Proof of full guardianship is needed by the aunt for the child to attend school in Ohio. Article III - Applicability of the Interstate Compact.

Third Scenario: Student transferred into an Ohio school as a senior from a California school (military transfer of step-father with joint custody). Student passed the California graduation exams but lacks three courses needed to meet California graduation requirements. He enrolled in those classes in Ohio and will graduate with a California diploma from the Ohio school. Assistance was provided by the California Military Compact Commissioner to resolve this in California along with the California school counselor and the Ohio school counselor. Chapter 400 - Graduation Sec. (a) *Waiver requirements*.

Fourth scenario: Mississippi student transferred to an Ohio school due to parent military transfer. He has taken and passed all Mississippi state graduation tests. The Mississippi Department of Education confirmed a compatibility with the Ohio Graduation Tests. The student was ruled exempt from taking the Ohio exams and will be able to graduate with an Ohio diploma pending passage of all required classes. Chapter 400 - Graduation Sec. (b) *Exit Exams*.

Fifth scenario: Student transferred into an Ohio school as a 6th grader taking foreign language for high school credit. The Ohio school does not offer foreign language to 6th graders for credit. Under the Military Compact efforts are made to permit the student to complete the credit-bearing foreign language course joining 7th graders in the same building for one period each day and taking 6th grade classes for the balance of the day. Chapter 500 Placement & Attendance Sec. 5.101 *Course Placement*.

Ohio: Recent Events and Happenings

In March 2011, a presentation on the Military Compact was made before the Ohio State Board of Education. Joining this presentation was Lt. Colonel Matthew Carran, Battalion Commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Command. The presentation was very positively received. The current State Board President, Debe Terhar, understood the importance of the Compact having grown up in a military family with both parents serving as Navy personnel. Other State Board members were also military veterans. This is but a sample of the overwhelming support that still exists for this initiative in Ohio.



COMPACT RESULTS - A CALL TO ACTION

Maj. Gloria Berlanga, Army Reserve, Rhode Island Compact Council

Development and implementation of the COMPACT was also a watershed event for members of the Rhode Island National Guard and their families. As this COMPACT initially addressed challenges facing Active Duty children, the absence of policies and procedures to address the needs of National Guard children became clear.

Working together with US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, COMPACT Members Mrs. Rosemarie Kraeger and MAJ Gloria Berlanga, MAJ Mike Manning, legislative liaison for the Rhode Island National Guard began meeting with Rhode Island Education leaders. The intent was simple: to raise awareness regarding the challenges children of deployed service members face in school and to develop recommendations to assist these children throughout the deployment process. Timing of these meetings could not have come at a more important time, as over 50% of the Rhode Island National Guard will be deployed sometime during 2011 and 2012. For many of these children, it will be their parents' second, or third, year-old deployment since September 11, 2001.

In early April, MAJs Manning and Berlanga met with Members of the Rhode Island Superintendant's Executive Committee. MAJ Manning informed committee members on the mission of the National Guard and detailed the number of soldiers and airmen we will have deployed in 2011/2012. MAJ Berlanga provided a detailed explanation of the deployment cycle and highlighted the timeframes during which children usually encounter the most challenges (immediately prior to and after a loved one leaves, during R&R and immediately before the loved one returns home). Both officers also provided personal feedback from their respective deployments and how challenging it was for their children to adjust.

Following this meeting, MAJs Manning and Berlanga met with principals from the North Kingstown School District. Again, they detailed specifics regarding the National Guard upcoming deployments and explained the painful deployment process to the gathered educators. Most profound, however, was the message delivered by Katie Callahan. Miss Callahan, a sixteen year-old North Kingstown High School junior, is the daughter of COL Chris Callahan, an Iraq war veteran. COL Callahan was the Commander of the 1/126th Aviation Battalion, during that unit's deployment from 2004-2005. Katie provided a very personal perspective on the challenges she faced while her father was deployed; her message clearly resonated with the gathered educators and truly illustrated how, even years after a deployment, children still feel the effects of the long separation.

As a result of these important meetings, Rhode Island Educators and members of the Rhode Island National Guard, are developing recommendations for use in schools and in pre-deployment ceremonies for all departing units. Some of those recommendations include the following: developing deployment support groups for children; recommending that deploying soldiers meet with their children's teachers prior to departure in order to increase communication and help their child long-term, and developing a method by which students of deployed service members receive greater flexibility regarding missed school time throughout their parents' deployment. These are important steps for our children and would not have occurred without the impetus of the COMPACT.



In Support of the Global War on Terror (September 11, 2001 - Present) <i>as of 13 October 2010</i>				
	Deployed		5,168	
	Killed in Action		4	
	Injured in Combat (Purple Heart)		57	
	Silver Star Medal		1	
	Bronze Star Medals with Valor		4	
	Bronze Star Medals		146	
Current Deployments/Mobilizations <i>as of 13 October 2010</i>				
Component	Unit	Location	Personnel	Return Date
Army	Individuals	Various	14	Various
Air	Individuals	Various	38	Various
Army	118th MP Battalion	GTMO	34	Nov 2010
Army	1207th FSC	Kuwait	130	Oct 2011
Army	B Battery 1/103d FA	Kuwait	67	Oct 2011
Army	1/103rd HHB FA	Kuwait	83	Oct 2011
Air	143d Airlift Wing		51	Dec 2010
TOTAL CURRENT DEPLOYMENTS/MOBILIZATIONS			417	
Upcoming Deployments/Mobilizations				
Component	Unit	Personnel	Personnel	Date
Army	Co F, 1/126th AVN	OEF	66	Jan 2011
Army	A Co, 1/182d IN	OEF	131	Mar 2011
Army	43d MP BDE	OEF	100	Mar 2011
Army	Co D, 1/126th AVN	OIF	12	Aug 2011
Army	Co C, 1/143d IN	OIF	131	Nov 2011
TOTAL UPCOMING DEPLOYMENTS/MOBILIZATIONS			440	



AN INSPIRING MOMENT

Carmela Geer, Community Outreach Director

The month of April sports a number of special dates and acknowledgements that seem to flash their importance slightly under the radar. April is tax month, National Poetry Month, and National Financial Literacy Month. But this week I was lucky enough to take part in a celebration that deserves a higher elevation of notice and attention.

April is the Month of the Military Child. According to the [Department of Defense](#), the month of the military child dates back to former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger who established this month as a way to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community.

Today, I was reminded of the sacrifices these brave men and women and their families make every day of their lives and am still in awe of the ties that bind them. I take for granted that my kids are with me and me with them, all of the time. I forget that as a civilian, I can reside in my community for as long as I choose. Orders to move me from base to base or school to school are never a part of my reality. I benefit everyday from their hard work and commitment and sometimes forget to notice. But today, I had the opportunity, along with my colleagues and students at Forest Avenue School to say "thank you".

We have been planning Military Child Day for weeks. The children practiced a special song for the occasion; we made up a program for a school wide assembly and put together a very emotional slide show complete with heartwarming photos of our military kids with their families.

But all of that prep work could never have prepared me for what this day would do to my heart as I began to see the myriad of service men and women converge upon the school playground waiting to be greeted by their children. I was overcome by the line of uniforms, the smiles, the air of honor and dignity. I got all of that just from the handshakes, hugs and greetings as they checked in.

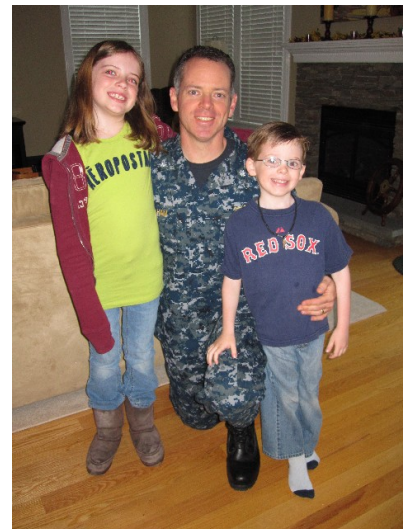
The moment of inspiration came some time later, during the assembly, when the program called for the reading of [The Military Child's Creed](#). It came over me like a tidal wave as I asked the children to stand as I announced the branch of service that they belonged to. As each child, spouse and service man or woman stood I could feel this sense of something so much bigger than I was. The energy in the room soared to a place that almost disarmed me.

From there the children began to repeat the creed as I spoke it. It was at this moment that I realized what the true bonds of family are. They vowed to never leave another "brat" behind, to ask for help when they needed it, to never accept defeat and to never quit. ([Leanne from Military Avenue](#))

It was such a powerful statement from such a young source of strength and tenacity. They find strength in belonging to something that transcends them as individuals. They believe in the power of a common cause and set of ideals; willing to do whatever it takes to complete the mission successfully and with pride.

It was a lesson I will not soon forget. Strength in family, as in any other relationship, requires a commitment to hard work, a common belief that there is nothing that can destroy it from without when there is purpose from within and that love really does transcend all.

A moment of inspiration to last a lifetime and for that, I am truly grateful.



Photos courtesy of Carmela Geer and the Military Families in the Middletown Public Schools, Middletown, RI





FROM MIC3 HEADQUARTERS STAFF

It has been a very busy Spring for the MIC3 Headquarters Staff. We have seen growth in the Commission with the addition of West Virginia. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Legislation, the Budget and the Training and PR Committee has kept Mr. Matthews hopping. John has been tracking legislation in the remaining states over the Spring. By June, the Commission may be even larger with possible passage of the Compact in Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Vermont. Tom Hinton and the Regional DoD Liaisons, in concert with General Arflack and Rick Masters, have been fielding questions and alleviating concerns.

The Training and PR Committee have really kept the staff moving on multiple projects since the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The brochures and One Pagers were approved and have been posted to the website. An initial printing of 5000 brochures were produced have been distributed as requests come in. The staff in concert with the committee has been working on the new MIC3 State Council and Commissioner Training Manual which they hope to have available by June.

Richard Pryor and John Matthews have been working diligently to keep the MIC3 website and Facebook pages updated. Changes are appearing frequently, so keep checking back. Richard has been preparing things for Fiscal Year 2012.

The Staff moved the offices to the CSG Conference Center building. The move allowed them to separate somewhat from the CSG headquarters. It has provided the staff with much needed space including an office for Richard instead of cubicle.

Currently, the Staff is making preparations for Executive Committee Meeting in June. We are also looking toward the next Annual Meeting in Louisville in November 2011.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15, 2011	Military Appreciation Day (Brewers)	Miller Park, Milwaukee, WI
May 18, 2011	MIC3 Training and PR Cmte. Conf. Call	GoTo Meeting
May 30, 2011	Military Appreciation Day (Lou. Bats)	Louisville, KY
June 10, 2011	Military Appreciation Day (Lex. Legends)	Lexington, KY
June 28 -29, 2011	MIC3 Executive Committee Meeting	Galt House, Louisville, KY
July 4, 2011	Independence Day (office closed)	
November 14-15, 2011	MIC3 4th Annual Meeting	Galt House, Louisville, KY

COMMISSIONERS: Getting to Know

ALASKA - Michael Hanley



Mike Hanley began his tenure as Commissioner of Education & Early Development on February 3, 2011.

Hanley served as a teacher in the Anchorage School District from 1991 to 2005. He served as an elementary school principal in the Anchorage School District from 2005 to January 2011. Hanley also has experience owning and operating commercial fishing and landscaping businesses.

In Anchorage, he coached youth soccer, basketball and running, and was a board member of the Campbell Creek Science Center, which provides outdoor activities for youth and families.

Hanley holds a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Bethel College in Minnesota, a Bachelor of Arts degree in K-8 education from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and a master's degree in educational leadership from UAA.

SOUTH DAKOTA - Dr. Loren Scheer



the past five years.

Loren Scheer has been an educator for the past 30 years. He started out as a Business and Physical Education teacher. After ten years in the classroom, he joined the administration ranks as a high school principal; first in a 9-12 setting and then in a 7-12 setting. After 12 years as a high school principal, he became a superintendent in a south central town in North Dakota. Dr. Scheer has spent his entire career in North and South Dakota. He has been Superintendent of the Douglas School District

Loren is active in organizations that support education and the mission of the Douglas School District, such as; Impact Schools of South Dakota, Military Impacted Schools Association, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, Region IV Superintendents and the South Dakota School Superintendent Association.

An important aspect of Loren's life is his family – much of his spare time is spent with his wife, two daughters, two son-in-laws and six grand-children.